Cory McCullough

3/31/16

US History

Skype Interview Reflection

I had found this whole experience of interviewing someone very interesting. Though it would have been cool to interview someone who had actually lived during the Cold War, I had to settle with one of my friends who is a rather big history buff. I personally liked this a little better, because it felt like the two of us were just having a casual conversation about history like we normally do, just with a couple of talking points.

But the information I would teach in my class and the responses from my friend Ted overlapped for the most part. The biggest thing that Ted had stressed was the fear of the Russians. This was on the minds of Americans rather often, which led to the idea of the “Red Scare.” Although he never came out and said it, he alluded to this concept I would teach my students rather often. It was also very cool that he referenced the exact video I wanted to use in my lesson or my hook (“Duck and Cover”) because he watching it in his high school class. The fact that they showed a video on how to react to the detonation of a nuclear bomb in schools shows how much the Americans feared an all out war with Russia. He also touched upon how those who supported the communist ideals would have been shunned from society.

But there was some information that Ted did go on more depth on than I would have in my lessons. One thing was the extent at which those who sympathized with the communists were shunned from society. I would have taught how their friends would have abandoned them, but Ted went into detail that they were monitored to see if they were Russian spies, and even some experienced police brutality. Ted also went into quite a bit of details about the global conflict of the Cold War, which is what I would have gotten into during my next lesson. He jumped ahead and began to talk about proxy wars, communist China, the space race, and also had me throw in the 1980 Olympics where the Americans beat the dominate Soviet international hockey team.

Over all this was a very cool experience that would really help my students go more in depth about the Cold War in America. It will allow them to lead the way on what they want to learn about, and if they ask the right questions will lead right into the next lesson. It would have been even cooler to hear someone’s experiences who lived through this tense time period.